(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Considering the distance between Delhi and Abu Road of over 740 Kms., single line section & speed, it would not be operationally feasible to run a Shatabdi Express/Intercity between the two points.

[English]

Cancellation of Contracts for Maintenance of Railway Station

2982. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken decision to cancel all contracts for maintenance of major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternative measures the Government propose to take for maintenance of major railway stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) In 1993, a scheme for beautification-cum-maintenance in lieu of sole advertisement rights had been introduced at a few important stations on Indian Railways. The scheme has been discontinued as it had been decided that petty maintenance work will be done departmentally.

Village Public Telephone Project

2983. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Communications is thinking of placing additional equipment orders to a few vendors in an attempt to meet the target for its Village Public Telephone Project for 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the project;

(c) whether the target for VPT for 1996-97 was set at 75000;

(d) if so, whether the target has been achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the shortfall noticed; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the target for Village Telephone Project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The actual achievement of the target will be known after 31.3.1997.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) All efforts are being made to meet the targets for Village Public Telephone Project within the scheduled time.

[Translation]

Shortage of Worker in P.F. Office

2984. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official work of Employment Provident Fund Office, Surat is being adversely affected due to shortage of class III and IV employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of class III and IV employees working at present in the said office and the number ofthose required; and

(d) the steps taken to appoint requisite number of employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) All the 21 Group 'D' posts sanctioned for the Sub-Regional Providnt Fund Office at Surat and filled. Of the 216 Group 'C' posts sanctioned for the office (including 68 posts sanctioned during 1996-97), 126 are presently filled. While shortage of staff affects normal functioning of the office, the organisation has been trying to ensure that the work relating to service to the subscribers contiunes satisfactorily. The Employees, Provident Fund Organisation has initiated necessary action to fill the vacant posts according to the prescribed procedure.

T.V. Studio, Patna

2985. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
PROF. RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred question No. 3467 on August 29, 1996 regarding TV Studio, Patna and state:

(a) whether all the formalities regarding commissioning of said TV studio have since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be started;

(d) the loss incurred by the Government due to closure of the above studio;